

**MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
NR-ELIGIBILITY REVIEW FORM**

PROPERTY NAME: Dr. Holt Farm
ADDRESS: 29527 Queen Anne Highway (near Wye Mills)
OWNER: Holton E. Rhodes, Jr. and Lois H. R. Lunn
TAX PARCEL NUMBER: 31 & 83; 24
PROJECT: MD 404 from US Route 50 to Denton Bypass
SITE VISIT BY: Archaeological and Historical Consultants, Inc.
NAME: Wendy Zug-Gilbert
INVENTORY NO. T-1148
TAX MAP NUMBER: 1; 2
AGENCY: MD SHA
DATE: July 2001

ELIGIBILITY RECOMMENDED
CRITERIA: A; B; C; D
CONSIDERATIONS: A; B; C; D; E; F; G; NONE
IS PROPERTY LOCATED WITHIN AN HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES; X NO
IS DISTRICT LISTED? YES; NO
NAME OF DISTRICT:

DOCUMENTATION ON THE PROPERTY/DISTRICT IS PRESENTED IN:

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY AND ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATION:

Summary Description:

The Dr. Holt Farm is a mid-nineteenth century property located along the south side of Maryland Route 404 in northern Talbot County. The 125-acre farm consists of a farmhouse, garage (wagonshed), privy, two storage sheds, a milk house, a grain elevator, and a trailer. The grain elevator, trailer, and one of the sheds are modern. The farmhouse is a two-story, five-bay, I-house with a rear kitchen addition. Original features include the classical door surround on the façade and the six-over-nine and six-over six windows on the main block. The frame structure is covered with aluminum siding and has a brick foundation that was reinforced with rusticated block during the early twentieth century. The historic outbuildings are frame with metal roofs, except for the concrete-block milk house.

Significance:

The Dr. Holt Farm does not retain sufficient architectural and historical integrity to be recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under any criterion. The farmhouse is a common vernacular form with substantial alterations and additions. The barn and the majority of the original outbuildings have been removed. The few remaining outbuildings likely date to the twentieth century and do not reflect the historic layout of the farmyard at the time of the farmhouse's construction. The farmland is in active cultivation by the owner, who lives on a nearby farm, and the Dr. Holt farmhouse is rented to tenants.

PREPARED BY: Wendy Zug-Gilbert, Principal Investigator, Archaeological and Historical Consultants, Inc.

Maryland Historical Trust Review

Eligibility recommended

Eligibility not recommended: X

Criteria: A; B; C; D Considerations: A; B; C; D; E; F; G; None

Comments:

Reviewer, Office of Preservation Services

Reviewer, NR program

Date

Date

V-entered

**TALBOT COUNTY
HISTORIC SITE SUMMARY SHEET**

SURVEY NO.: T-1148

NAME: Dr. Holt Farm

LOCATION: 29527 Queen Anne Highway (near Wye Mills)

DATE: c. 1850-1900

ACCESS: Private

DESCRIPTION:

The Dr. Holt Farm is a mid-nineteenth century property located along the south side of Maryland Route 404 in northern Talbot County. The 125-acre farm consists of a farmhouse, garage (wagonshed), privy, two storage sheds, a milk house, a grain elevator, and a trailer. The grain elevator, trailer, and one of the sheds are modern. The farmhouse is a two-story, five-bay, I-house with an off-centered rear ell addition on its south elevation. Original features include the classical door surround on the façade and the six-over-nine and six-over-six windows on the main block. The frame structure is covered with aluminum siding and has a brick foundation that was reinforced with rusticated block during the early twentieth century. The historic outbuildings are frame with metal roofs, except for the concrete-block milk house.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Dr. Holt Farm does not retain sufficient architectural and historical integrity to be recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under any criterion. The farmhouse is a common vernacular form with substantial alterations and additions. The barn and the majority of the original outbuildings have been removed. The few remaining outbuildings likely date to the twentieth century and do not reflect the historic layout of the farmyard at the time of the farmhouse's construction. The farmland is in active cultivation by the owner, who lives on a nearby farm, and the Dr. Holt farmhouse is rented to tenants.

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. **T-1148**

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Dr. Holt Farm (preferred)

other Rhodes-Lunn Farm

2. Location

street and number	29527 Queen Anne Highway	n/a not for publication
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city, town	Wye Mills	X	vicinity
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county Talbot

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Holton E. Rhodes, Jr and Lois Hunter R. Lunn

street and number	PO Box 275	telephone	n/a
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city, town	Wye Mills	state	MD	zip code	21679
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4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	Talbot County Courthouse	tax map and parcel	1-31 & 83; 2-24
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city, town	Easton	liber	505	folio	123
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5. Primary Location of Additional Data

☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

[illegible]

7. Description

Inventory No. T-1148

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Dr. Holt Farm is a mid-nineteenth century property located along the south side of Maryland Route 404 in northern Talbot County. The property's buildings are several hundred feet south of MD 404 and are situated at the end of a farm lane in a grove of large maple trees. Currently, the farm comprises three separate parcels, which together make up the 125-acre property. The most prominent features on the property are the farmhouse and the grain elevator. The house faces north toward the highway on a 20-acre parcel; the grain elevator is located at the rear of the farmyard on a 6-acre parcel. The associated farmland comprises 99 acres. The property is currently farmed by the owner, who lives in a nearby farm in the Wye Mills area. A tenant occupies the farmhouse.

The farmhouse is a two-story, five-bay, I-house with an off-centered rear kitchen addition. Its central entryway on the north elevation has retained its original classical door surround, which has fluted pilasters and a cornice. Six-over-nine and six-over-six windows on the façade are also original elements of the dwelling. According to the current owner, the dwelling originally had a brick foundation, which has been reinforced with rusticated block (Rhodes 2001). The owner also indicated that there are three layers of siding over the frame structure. Aluminum siding was installed during the 1950s for added insulation and overlays two earlier exterior coverings, including cedar-shingle siding and the original clapboard siding. The roof has modern asphalt shingles and has brick interior chimneys on the ridges of the east and west ends of the house. The original porch was replaced with a small roof-less entry deck and has a modern spindlework balustrade. Wooden lattice covers the area beneath the porch. The rear ell appears to be a late nineteenth-century addition. Unlike the original portion of the house, the addition lacks the uniformity of an I-house. It has modern one-over-one windows on the second floor and one-story shed-roof additions on its east and south elevations, both of which may be enclosed porches.

A frame garage and a privy are located on the south side of the farmhouse. The privy is a front-gable structure with clapboard siding, and the garage has board-and-batten siding and a metal roof. A mobile home and a modern shed are situated on the east side of the house. The barn and most of the agricultural buildings have been removed (Rhodes 2001). As evidenced by the presence of the milk house, the barn and original outbuildings likely occupied the area where the grain elevator complex is situated. The milk house is a concrete-block building with brick sills and a metal roof. A small frame shed is situated within a small loop of farmland and is presumably used for storage. The grain elevator has six storage structures.

8. Significance

Inventory No. T-1148

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/	<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates	c. 1850-1910	Architect/Builder	unknown
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Construction dates	c. 1850-57; 1900-20
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Evaluation for:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Register	<input type="checkbox"/> Maryland Register	<input type="checkbox"/> not evaluated
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Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

Significance

The Dr. Holt Farm does not retain sufficient architectural and historical integrity to be recommended eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under any criterion. The farmhouse is a common vernacular form with substantial alterations and additions. The barn and majority of the original outbuildings have been removed. The few remaining outbuildings likely date to the twentieth century and do not reflect the historic layout of the farmyard at the time of the farmhouse's construction. The farmland is in active cultivation by the owner, who lives on a nearby farm, and the Dr. Holt farmhouse is rented to tenants.

Historic Narrative

Although the Talbot County Tax Assessment records indicate that the Dr. Holt Farm dates to 1910, the farmhouse's architectural details suggest a much earlier date. The house has six-over-six and nine-over-six windows, a weathered classical door surround, and three layers of exterior siding, all of which suggest the house is considerably older than 1910. The house appears on the 1904 quadrangle of the area (USGS 1904). The original section of the Dr. Holt farmhouse appears to be an I-house, many of which were built in the Chesapeake Bay region between 1820 and 1890 (Gordon 1992). Maps of Talbot County dating to 1858 and 1860 show Dr. J. H. Holt as the farm's property owner, and an 1877 map shows a Jno Holt in the same location (Dilworth 1858; Strong 1860; Lake, Griffing and Stevenson 1877). It is likely that the residence shown on the historic maps is the current farmhouse on the property.

During the mid-nineteenth century, the eastern shore of Maryland was an important agricultural area producing crops for marketplaces in Annapolis, Baltimore, and Washington, D.C. By this time, the tobacco-based economy that dominated the Chesapeake area during the early eighteenth century had given way to one based on the production of feed grains. Indian corn, wheat, oats, and rye were the primary grains grown in Talbot County. Other important crops during this period included Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, hay, and orchard produce. Wool and butter were also produced. Agricultural diversification followed the Civil War and was characterized by the industrialization of agriculture, the beginning of mechanized farming, and the emergence of strong regional urban markets (Lanier & Herman 1997:178). Additionally, the extension of the Maryland & Delaware Railroad to neighboring Hillsboro in 1868 provided a high-speed transit for formerly untransportable produce. Produce such as berries, cherries, peaches, and perishable vegetables as well as small game and animals including partridges, wild duck, geese, rabbits, and poultry could be shipped farther and faster (Preston 1983:234). Eggs and oysters were other major products.

In 1896, a second railroad was constructed through the area (Hayman 1979:118). The Queen Annes Railroad was the last major railroad to be built on the Eastern Shore. It was constructed as an east-west line to service the agriculturally productive region in the upper Eastern Shore. This railroad ran along the north side of Queen Anne Highway between Wye Mills and Queen Anne. Railroads provided the region with a viable option for the transportation of fresh produce; however, advances in the technology of the food canning process enabled Queen Annes, Caroline, and Talbot counties to provide agricultural products with a longer shelf life. A history of eastern Maryland canneries identified early twentieth-century canneries along the railroad line in Wye Mills, Willoughby, Hillsboro, Downes, Tuckahoe, and Denton (Hayman 1979:122).

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. T-1148

Dr. Holt Farm Continuation Sheet

Number 8 Page 1

Historic Narrative (continued)

Queen Anne and Talbot counties were ideal locales for grain crops, and many of the canneries in the Queen Anne area were known for canning creamed corn (Burton 1986). Cannery production peaked in 1920 and soon declined due in part to the depression. World War II brought another increase in the demand for canned foods. It is likely that the Dr. Holt Farm was one source of corn and other produce that was canned at the Willoughby area canneries.

By the early twentieth century, significant changes in farming practices ushered in a new period of agriculture. The use of engine-driven trucks and tractors, the importance of hygienic farming standards, and the expansion of truck farming became important issues. It was during this period that the garage on the Dr. Holt Farm was likely built. Just shortly following this early twentieth-century period, concrete and concrete-block gained popularity as building materials. It was during this period that the concrete-block milk house was constructed and the rusticated block foundation was added to the farmhouse. The current owner's family purchased the farm in the 1930s, at which time a dairy barn existed on the property. That barn and its associated farm buildings, with the exception of the milk house, have since been destroyed. Currently, the farm is used for grain crop production.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. **T-1148**

Dilworth, William

1858 *Map of Talbot County, Maryland.*

Gordon, Stephen C.

1992 *How to Complete the Ohio Historic Inventory.* Ohio Historic Preservation Office, Columbus, Ohio.

Hayman, John C.

1979 *Rails Along the Chesapeake – A History of Railroading on the Delmarva Peninsula, 1827-1978.* Marvadel Publishers, unknown location.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 125 acresAcreage of historical setting 125 acresQuadrangle name Wye Mills, MD (1973)Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

n/a

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Leslie A. Dyer (Principal Investigator)		
organization	Archaeological & Historical Consultants, Inc.	date	July 2001
street & number	101 N. Pennsylvania Ave., PO Box 482	telephone	(814) 364-2135
city or town	Centre Hall	state	PA

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

Maryland Historical Trust Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. T-1148

Dr. Holt Farm Continuation Sheet

Number 9 Page 1

Major Bibliographical References (continued)

Lake, Griffing & Stevenson

1877 *An Illustrated Atlas of Kent and Queen Annes Counties, Maryland.* Lake, Griffing & Stevenson, Philadelphia.

Lanier, Gabrielle M. & Bernard L. Herman

1997 *Everyday Architecture of the Mid-Atlantic.* The Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore.

Preston, Dickinson J.

1983 *Talbot County: A History.* Tidewater Publishers, Centreville, MD.

Rhodes, Holton E.

2001 Conversation with Holton E. Rhodes, Jr. (property owner), July 2001.

Strong, John G.

1860 *Map of Queen Annes County, Maryland.*

Talbot County Tax Assessment Records and Tax Maps. Located at Talbot County Courthouse, Easton, MD.

United States Geologic Survey (USGS)

1973 *Wye Mills, Maryland Quadrangle* 7.5-minute series.

1904 *St. Michaels, Maryland Quadrangle.* 15-minute series.

**PRESERVATION VISION 2000: THE MARYLAND PLAN
STATEWIDE HISTORIC CONTEXTS**

I. GEOGRAPHIC REGION:

- X EASTERN SHORE (ALL EASTERN SHORE COUNTIES AND CECIL)**
- WESTERN SHORE (ANNE ARUNDEL, CALVERT, CHARLES, PRINCE GEORGE'S, ST. MARY'S)**
- PIEDMONT (BALTIMORE CITY, BALTIMORE, CARROLL, FREDERICK, HARFORD,, HOWARD,
MONTGOMERY)**
- WESTERN MARYLAND (ALLEGANY, GARRETT, WASHINGTON)**

II. CHRONOLOGICAL/DEVELOPMENTAL PERIODS:

- RURAL AGRARIAN INTENSIFICATION (A.D. 1680-1815)**
- X AGRICULTURAL-INDUSTRIAL TRANSITION (A.D. 1815-1870)**
- X INDUSTRIAL/URBAN DOMINANCE (A.D. 1870-1930)**
- X MODERN PERIOD (A.D. 1930-PRESENT)**
- UNKNOWN PERIOD (PREHISTORIC; HISTORIC)**

III. HISTORIC PERIOD THEMES:

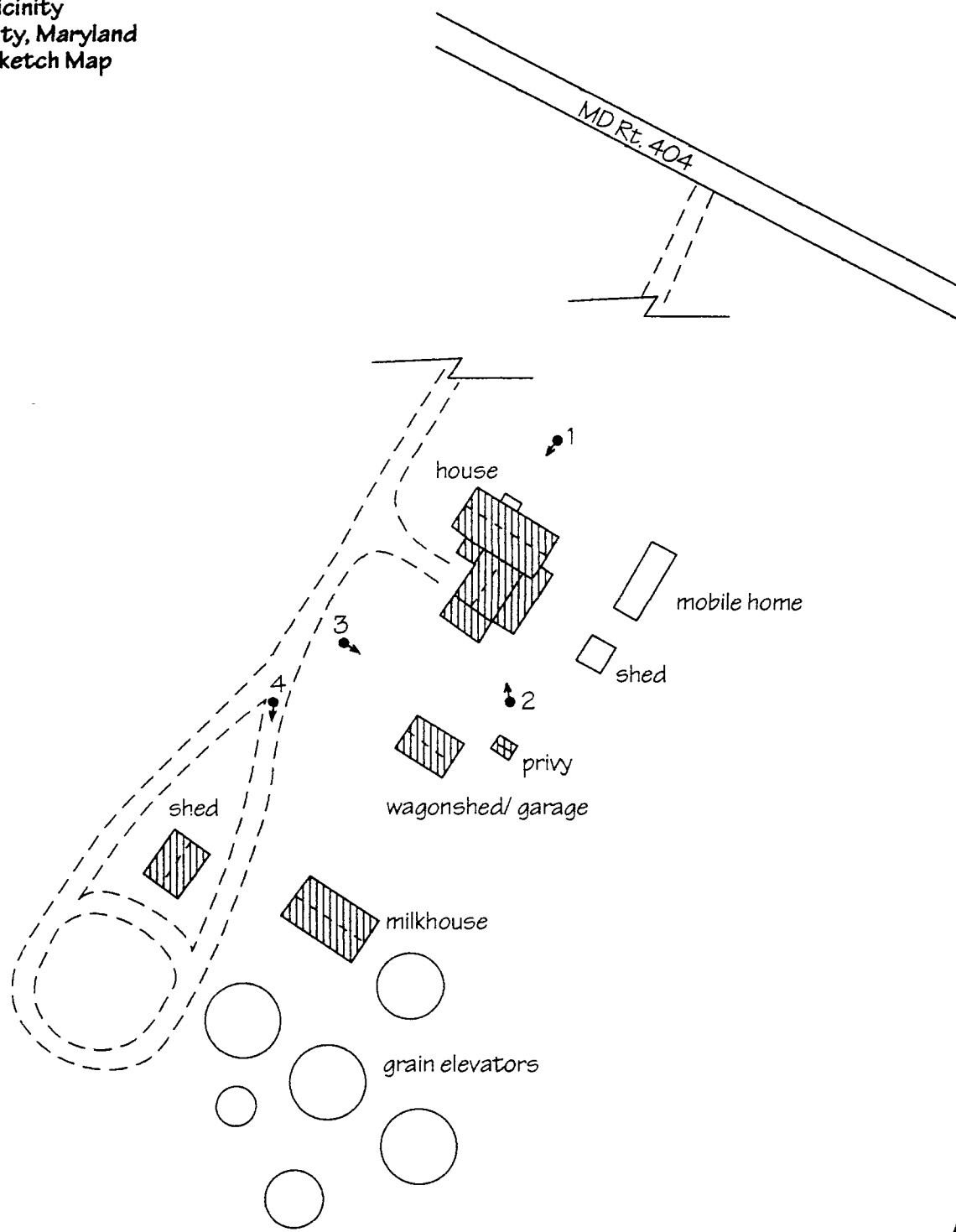
- X AGRICULTURE**
- X ARCHITECTURE, LANDSCAPE, ARCHITECTURE, AND COMMUNITY PLANNING**
- ECONOMIC (COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL)**
- GOVERNMENT/LAW**
- MILITARY**
- RELIGION**
- SOCIAL/EDUCATIONAL/CULTURAL**
- TRANSPORTATION**

IV. RESOURCE TYPE:

CATEGORY: farm
HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT: rural
HISTORIC FUNCTION(S) AND USE(S): farm
KNOWN DESIGN SOURCE: none

Dr. Holt Farm (T-1148)

Wye Mills Vicinity
Talbot County, Maryland
Resource Sketch Map

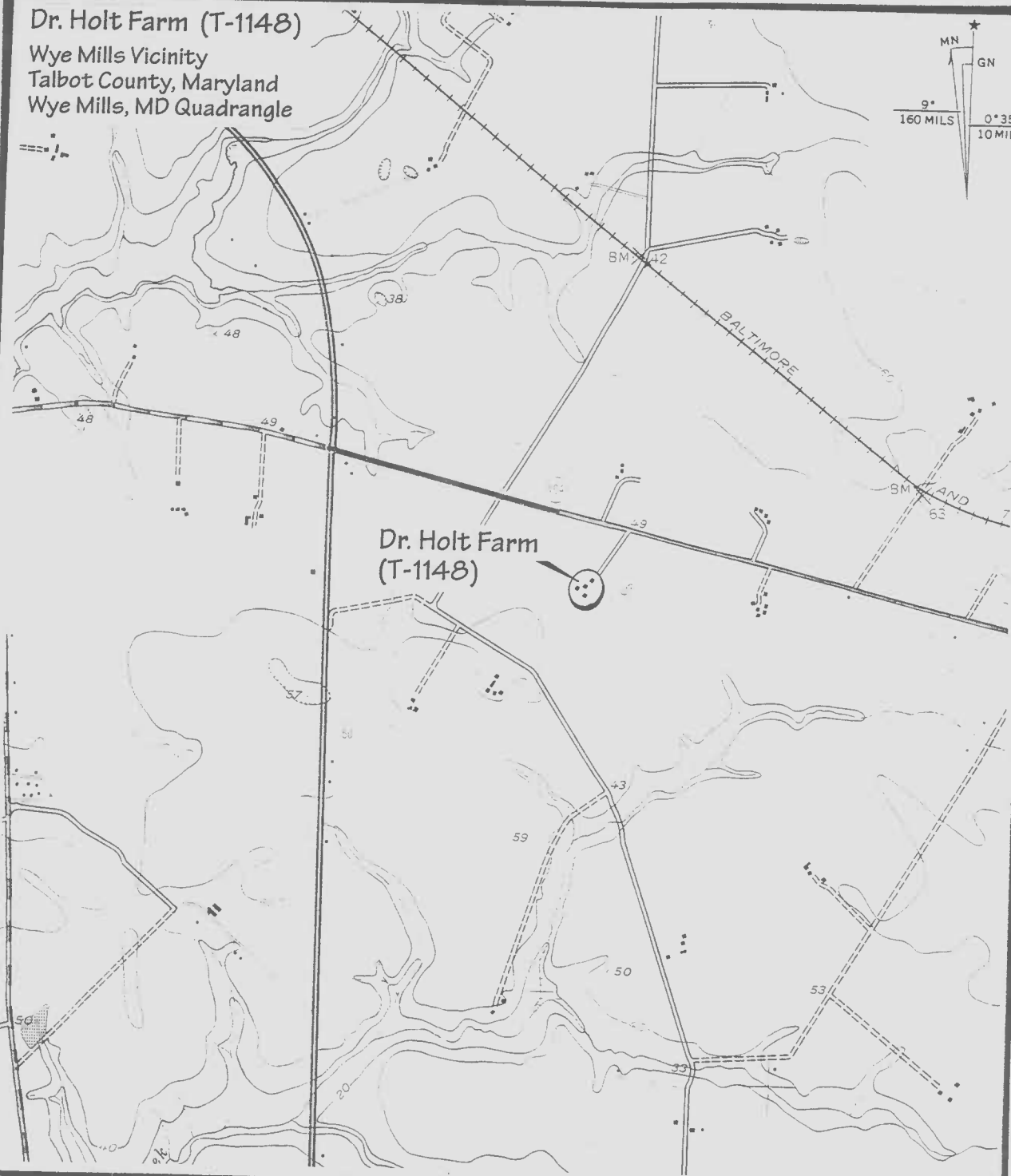
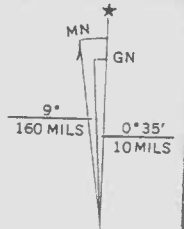


➡ = Photo Viewpoint
▨ = Historic Structure

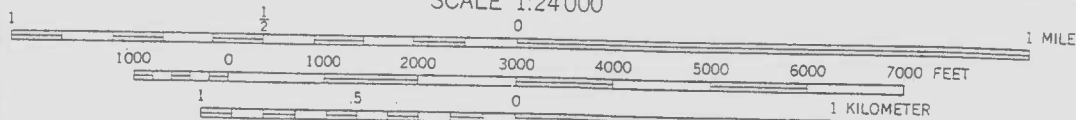
not to scale

Dr. Holt Farm (T-1148)

Wye Mills Vicinity
Talbot County, Maryland
Wye Mills, MD Quadrangle



SCALE 1:24 000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET



QUADRANGLE LOCATION



T-1148

Dr. Holt Farm

Talbot County, Maryland

Rita Suffness

June 2001

MD SHPO

Farmhouse, north facade, facing southwest

1 of 4



T-11418

Dr. Holt Farm

Talbot County, Maryland

Rita Suffness

June 2001

MD SHPO

Farmhouse, east elevation, facing north

2044



T-1148

Dr Holt Farm

Talbot County, Maryland

Rita Sutfness

June 2001

MD SHPO

Outbuildings near house (shed, privy, and garage), facing southeast

3 of 4



T-1148

Dr. Holt Farm

Talbot County, Maryland

Rita Sattness

June 2001

MD SHPO

Farm buildings (grain elevator, milk house, and storage shed) facing South

4 of 4